

D COMMENT

VIEWS AND REVIEWS

VIEWS AND REVIEWS OF CURRENT FICTION

Mr. Onions's Ambitious New Undertaking—Baroness von Hutten's Story of a Singer and a Prince—A First Class Detective Story.

THE PASSING OF AN ERA. Her Dedication
THE DUTCHERS OF ALBANY Her Dedication
The Romance of the Mountains Her Dedication

A little throne in Southeastern Europe, the region of Ruritania. There is, therefore, a touch of timeliness in the

It is with reluctance that one confesses to a growing conviction that the new generation of English novelists, taking itself a little too seriously, only too often, as we found in Oliver Twist's new novel a good deal of hard reading that might easily have been avoided, since it was caused by over-elaboration, by an evident lack of faith in the reader's power of absorption. And Mr. Waple presents us with a tremendously long novel, which, he explains, is not the first of a trilogy, but of a group of three books, each complete in itself, but connected in a complete plan and in sequence of time. Also certain of the characters will appear in all three books. And collectively they are to be called "The Rising City." The George H. Doran Com-

pany, 270 Madison Ave., New York, is of the opinion that we should not be so sure of things may guess at the semi-identity of royal personages concerned in the plot. This element may somewhat distract attention from the serious side of the book, but it is not so serious as the comparisons and makes it everything that a summer novel should be.

A GOOD DETECTIVE STORY.

MRS. VANDERSTEIN'S JEWELS. By Mrs. Charles Waple. 12mo, pp. 244. The John Lane Company.

Amateurs take notice! Here is a full-size detective story, built upon the best traditions of this form of fiction, those of the Frenchmen Gaboriau and Du Boisgobey, and it is not at all a less a plagiarist, but she has learned her trade in a good school, and knows all its resources. Her detective is not also hero, suitor and

The idea that informs "The Duchess of Wreese" is the passing of the Victorian era of aristocratic life in England with the collapse of the throne, war, the French Revolution, past eighty years ago. The Duchess is a personification of that era. Infirm, kept alive by her will never alone, house-ridden for thirty years, she still rules her family as if it were hers. She knows that an obedience given her is yielded out of respect for her age, no longer for fear of her power. Only the semblance of it remains, but well, and a tradition has grown up that unloads her tottering load of judgment. Two of her children have defied her in the past and paid to grief; the third is now a potent force in her support. But her granddaughter, yielding to a certain extent to the tradition, yet never really surrenders. She is the figure of the future—"The Rising City."

A tremendous subject, this, but far too powerful for Mr. Walpole, if this first of the three stories can be taken as a sample of the whole. There was so much more to the end of the Victorian era than the failure of the privileged classes in their attempt to strike the new blow for the old.

Other causes

winner of the heroine all in hand. He strictly attends to his general business with a scrupulous ingenuity that never stretches probability too far; and the mystery he solves is an exciting one, too complicated to allow of an unravelling of its threads.

Mr. Garstin disappears with all her jewels upon her, after a gala night at Covent Garden; and her companion disappears with her. This is all that can be told of the plot, which is interesting rapidly and interest toward the denouement, its false clues having the supreme merit of keeping the reader as much puzzled as the detective and the truth.

"The Rising City," a simblet-promulgued name!—does not employ disguises, a trick long since discarded; he does not need them. It may be added, in further recommendation, that the portrait of Mrs. Vanderstain's portrait on the slip cover, drawn by Freda Rowe, is an unmistakable likeness.

A RATTLING YARN.

A LAD OF KENT. By Herbert Harrison. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 356. The Macmillan Company.

Here is the best of adventurous mis-

was at work, chief among them the waning strength of a Titan after three centuries of world-wide conquest. But there were some bold younger, fresher powers forging to the forefront. This view is not ignored by Mr. Walpole, but he gives it from afar, where the due importance of the subject is thereby diminished. He is the first of a long line of viceregentmen, shooting his darts with malicious joy. We are a little too closely confined to the room of the Duchess of Wresce, we are too much in the social atmosphere of the outside of the walls and among the foundation-buildings of the new era, if, indeed, they can be said to have as yet laid any foundations at all. But then, the first of a series of three books, and Mr. Walpole may yet change our impression of his first. In the subject it bears a striking resemblance to Mrs. Hemans' "The Family Reunion," but the resemblance that is unintentional as it was perhaps unavoidable.

ROYALTY AND TEMPERAMENT.
MARIA. By Bettina von Hutten. 12mo. pp. 232. D. Appleton & Co.

Frau von Hutten's versatility is not the least of her many good qualities as a writer of fiction. She had, however, been already writing "Pam" and "The Story of the Iron Hand."

The story will pass the far from easy

and "Shardro" three exceptionally fine books, the last of which has many of the qualities that give a novel enduring life, a strong moral and truly human characters first among them. In "Maria" she gives us what is perhaps best described as a fantasy—a study of the awakening of an artistic temperament by love and suffering and force, set in exceptional surroundings. Maria has a great voice, a thorough schooling—Jean de Reszke has been one of her teachers—but the supreme gift, call it temperament, or magnetic force, or something else, is hers. Her marriage is a magnificent one, though a meretricious marriage that is broken off at the last moment because His Royal Highness is selected to mount a

ND NOTICES

EVANGELIST.
TENT EVANGEL West 124th St., bet.
Ann St. and Avenue A, Morningside.
Rev. Hob Jones, noted Evangelist, Sunday
4 & 5, & nightly two weeks.

PRESBYTERIAN.
THE BRICK CHURCH
Fifth Avenue and thirty seventh Street.
Ministers: William Person Merrill
Frank Latimer Jernway
Rev. ALBERT C. STITCH, D. D.
President of Andover Theological Seminary,
will preach at the 11 o'clock service.
SUNDAY SCHOOL, 10:30-12:00.
Evening service, 7:30-9:00.
FIFTH AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fifth Ave. and Fifty-fifth St.
Rev. J. H. JOWETT, D. D., Pastor.
SUNDAY SCHOOL, 10:30-12:00.
Evening service, 7:30-9:00.
REV. F. B. MEYER
Memorial Hall, Farmington St., London,
will conduct both services.

CENTRAL Presbytery Church,
West 57th St. and 4th Ave.
Rev. Milton Rehe-Smith, D. D., Pastor.
REV. JOHN MCNEIL,
The Celebrated Scotch Preacher,
will preach at 11 A. M. & 8 P. M.

UNIVERSITY PLACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(on 14th Street)
Services at 11 o'clock in Hall adjoining
the Church for the summer.
Rev. George Alexander, D. D., Minister.
SUNDAY SCHOOL, 10:30-12:00.
Evening service omitted.

WEST-PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
86th St. and Amsterdam Ave.
Rev. NORMAN ROSS, D. D.,
will preach at 11 A. M.

Fort Washington Presbyterian Church,
14th St., near Broadway.
Rev. WATER J. MCNEIL
will preach at 11 A. M. & 8 P. M.

BROADWAY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
144th St. and Broadway
Walter Duncan Buchanan, D. D., Minister,
will preach at 11 A. M. & 8 P. M.

PITCERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH OF ZION AND ST. TIMOTHY
334 West 57th Street.
Rev. HENRY LEBROCK, D. C. L., Rector.
8 A. M. Holy Communion
11 A. M. Morning Prayer and Sermon
Preacher, Rev. Samuel Matthews, Episcopal
CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMMUNION,
4th Ave. and 58th St.
8 A. M. Communion
11 A. M. Rev. ORSAM STUART MICHAEL
12-2-40 Holy Communion
8 P. M. Rev. FRANK KENT
Cathedral of St. John the Divine,
Amenue Avenue and 114th Street.
8 A. M. Holy Communion
11 A. M. Preacher, Henry McCormick
4 P. M. Preacher, Bishop McCormick
7:30-9:00 Holy Communion
St. Thomas's Church, 5th Ave. & 53rd St.
Rev. ERNEST M. STUBBS, D. D., Rector.
8 and 11 A. M. Rev. W. Brathair John, D.
C. L., Preacher.
Rev. FLOYD W. TARKIN, D. D., Rector.
8 and 11 (Dr. Tomkins); 8 (Mr. Grant).

REFORMED.
THE MODER COLLEGIATE CHURCH,
24 Ave. and 7th St.
Rev. JOHN G. BROS. D. D., Minister.
Rev. Henry Kilmer Hotelling
will preach at 11 A. M. & 8 P. M.

THE MARBLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH,
42nd Ave. and 26th St.
Rev. DAVID M. BRIDGES, D. D., Min-
ister. Rev. Peter H. Miliken, D. D.,
will preach at 11 A. M. "The Way, the Life."
8 P. M. "The Way, the Life."

**THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF ST.
NICHOLAS.**
5th Ave. and 48th St.
Rev. MALCOLM JAMES MACLEOD, D. D.,
Minister. Church closed during month
of July.

THE WEST END COLLEGIATE CHURCH.
West End Ave. and 77th St.
Rev. HENRY W. BRIDGES, D. D., Min-
ister. Rev. J. Fred Berg, D. D., will
preach at 11 A. M.

MADISON AVENUE REFORMED CHURCH
57th St.
11 A. M.

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